

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the Johnson amendment and object very strenuously to the provision of the lottery bill which earmarks funds for that particular purpose. The lottery bill moved with 25 votes yesterday and I was one of the individuals who cast a vote for that bill, but I would tell the sponsors of the lottery bill at this point in time that I intend to oppose the bill at every other stage until that earmarking for that particular purpose is eliminated. I am very much opposed to the general homestead program. The general homestead program does little, if anything, to help a very large segment of the State of Nebraska, those property owners who are engaged in the business of farming and others and I sincerely believe that it is highly inappropriate to earmark property tax relief only for those individuals who own homes and that property tax relief ought to be aimed at all individuals including farmers and ranchers in the State of Nebraska. I intend to fight the lottery bill very vigorously in the future until that provision which earmarks the funds for that purpose is stricken. I also object to the Johnson amendment. I think it is unnecessary, the general homestead program has proven to be a boondoggle and a waste of money. It simply is not a meaningful amount of money to any home owner in the State of Nebraska. There is no justification at all for sending an average of \$17 back to each home owner in the State of Nebraska. I object to this use of state tax dollars. It simply is an unnecessary recycling of money. I think we ought to proceed with the passage of LB 396 and allow these funds to be used for more meaningful purposes either more general appropriate property tax relief or for the operations of state government.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. Peterson and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to Senator Johnson's amendment to LB 396. First of all I think yesterday we saw that the lottery is quite a ways away from passing yet nor do we know that it is going to. Even if it should, there is no problem in having the lottery bill create a new statute or revive an old one. That can very easily be put into the lottery bill. It seems inappropriate that we would tinker with 396 at this point to do the things we can do with the lottery bill to accomplish what Senator Johnson is setting out to do. I oppose the amendment and would hope the body would agree. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.